The Secretary of Energy
Washington, DC 20585
September 5, 2001

The Honorable Harry Reid
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Reid:

Thank you for your recent letter to President Bush in which you and other members of the Nevada Congressional Delegation expressed your concern that the nuclear energy recommendations of the National Energy Policy could influence future decisions on the suitability of the Yucca Mountain site in Nevada for a geological repository.

Our National Energy Policy is based on the principle that all Americans should have affordable and reliable energy. The Administration has developed a balanced approach to electricity supply, an approach that includes the use of traditional sources of electricity supply such as nuclear energy. Nuclear energy provides about 20 percent of the Nation’s electricity supply without producing harmful air emissions and nuclear power plants are among the most reliable and efficient electricity sources available on the grid today. For these reasons, we believe that nuclear energy is an important element of tomorrow’s energy supply. Industry and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission are successfully moving forward with relicensing of existing nuclear plants, and we expect that nearly all of the 103 existing plants in this country will operate beyond their original licenses. For the first time in decades, industry is also examining business cases for new nuclear plant construction in the United States.

Regardless of the future of nuclear energy in the United States, the Federal Government must meet its obligations under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act. We must address the existing legacy of high-level radioactive waste, and to meet this objective, we believe that a geologic repository is required. At present, there are over 40,000 metric tons of spent fuel from nuclear power generation plus significant quantities of Department of Energy and Navy spent fuel, surplus plutonium, and vitrified high-level waste resulting from national security and environmental cleanup missions that must be safely managed. Regardless of whether new nuclear plants are built, renewal of the Price Anderson Act is needed to enable the Department to meet its environmental cleanup obligations and operate our facilities safely.
The Department has conducted an extensive program of investigative science at Yucca Mountain, and the scientific analysis is still underway. My decision on whether to recommend Yucca Mountain for development as a repository will follow the processes outlined by the law and will be based on sound science. I will not prejudge the outcome. I, too, want to ensure that health and safety concerns of the people of Nevada have been fully addressed.

This Administration is committed to working closely with Congress as we move forward implementing an integrated and comprehensive National Energy Policy. If you have further questions, please feel free to contact me or Mr. Dan Brouillette, Director, Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs, on (202) 586-5450.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Spencer Abraham
The Secretary of Energy  
Washington, D.C. 20585  
September 5, 2001

The Honorable John Ensign  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Ensign:

Thank you for your recent letter to President Bush in which you and other members of the Nevada Congressional Delegation expressed your concern that the nuclear energy recommendations of the National Energy Policy could influence future decisions on the suitability of the Yucca Mountain site in Nevada for a geological repository.

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Washington, D.C. 20585  
September 5, 2001

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The Secretary of Energy  
Washington, D.C. 20585  
September 5, 2001
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Sincerely,

Spencer Abraham

Spencer Abraham
The Secretary of Energy  
Washington, DC 20585  
September 5, 2001

The Honorable Shelley Berkley  
U. S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Berkley:

Thank you for your recent letter to President Bush in which you and other members of the Nevada Congressional Delegation expressed your concern that the nuclear energy recommendations of the National Energy Policy could influence future decisions on the suitability of the Yucca Mountain site in Nevada for a geological repository.

Our National Energy Policy is based on the principle that all Americans should have affordable and reliable energy. The Administration has developed a balanced approach to electricity supply, an approach that includes the use of traditional sources of electricity supply such as nuclear energy. Nuclear energy provides about 20 percent of the Nation’s electricity supply without producing harmful air emissions and nuclear power plants are among the most reliable and efficient electricity sources available on the grid today. For these reasons, we believe that nuclear energy is an important element of tomorrow’s energy supply.

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Printed on recycled paper

11029

DOE018-0781

Obtained and made public by the Natural Resources Defense Council, March/April 2002
The Department has conducted an extensive program of investigative science at Yucca Mountain, and the scientific analysis is still underway. My decision on whether to recommend Yucca Mountain for development as a repository will follow the processes outlined by the law and will be based on sound science. I will not prejudge the outcome. I, too, want to ensure that health and safety concerns of the people of Nevada have been fully addressed.

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Sincerely,

Spencer Abraham
The Secretary of Energy  
Washington, DC 20585  
September 5, 2001

The Honorable Jim Gibbons  
U. S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Gibbons:

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Sincerely,

[Signature]

Spencer Abraham

11032

DOE016-0784
TO: DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

ACTION REQUESTED: DIRECT REPLY W/COPY

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 488493
MEDIA: LETTER, DATED MAY 23, 2001
TO: PRESIDENT BUSH
FROM: THE HONORABLE HARRY REID
UNITED STATES SENATE
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

SUBJECT: EXPRESSES CONCERN REGARDING THE NATIONAL ENERGY POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP RECOMMENDATION CONCERNING NUCLEAR WASTE

PROMPT ACTION IS ESSENTIAL — IF REQUIRED ACTION HAS NOT BEEN TAKEN WITHIN 9 WORKING DAYS OF RECEIPT, PLEASE TELEPHONE THE UNDERSIGNED AT 455-2590.

RETURN CORRESPONDENCE, WORKSHEET AND COPY OF RESPONSE (OR DRAFT) TO:
RECORDS MANAGEMENT, ROOM 72, THE WHITE HOUSE, 20500

OFFICE OF RECORDS MANAGEMENT - THE WHITE HOUSE
**THE WHITE HOUSE**

**CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET**

**DATE RECEIVED:** 08/01/2001

**NAME OF CORRESPONDENT:** THE HONORABLE HARRY REID

**SUBJECT:** EXPRESS CONCERN REGARDING THE NATIONAL ENERGY POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP RECOMMENDATION CONCERNING NUCLEAR WASTE

<table>
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<th>ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY</th>
<th>(STAFF NAME)</th>
<th>ACTION CODE</th>
<th>DATE YY/MM/DD</th>
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<tr>
<td>LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS</td>
<td>NICK CALIO</td>
<td>ORG</td>
<td>2001/05/30</td>
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**ACTION COMMENTS**

VICE PRESIDENT'S PERSONAL HELPER: 01/05/94 C 7/9/01

CEO

**ACTION COMMENTS:**

DEPT. OF ENERGY

**ACTION COMMENTS:**

**COMMENTS**

**ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS:** 0

**MEDIA:** LETTER

**INDIVIDUAL CODES:**

**REPORT CODES:**

**USER CODE:** 3 SIGNEES

**ACTION CODES:**

A - APPROPRIATE ACTION  
C - COMMENT/RECOMMENDATION  
D - DRAFT RESPONSE  
F - FURNISH FACT SHEET  
I - INFO COPY NO ACT NECESSARY  
R - DIRECT REPLY W/ COPY  
S - FOR SIGNATURE  
T - INTERIM REPLY

**DISPOSITION CODES:**

A - ANSWERED  
B - MONOSTATIC-REFERRAL  
C - COMPLETED  
S - SUSPENDED

**OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:**

CODE = A  
COMPLETED + DATE OF OUTGOING

**NOTE:** REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO RECORDS MANAGEMENT (ROOM 72, OEOB) EXT-62900  
KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS MANAGEMENT.

**11034**

DOE016-0786

Obtained and made public by the Natural Resources Defense Council, March/April 2002
June 12, 2001

Dear Senator Reid:

Thank you for your recent letter opposing the increase of nuclear power because it might increase the possibility of Yucca Mountain becoming a nuclear waste repository. The President certainly appreciates your concern and suggestions.

I have shared your letter with the President’s energy policy advisors and the Energy Task Force who are formulating policy recommendations in this area. Your comments are receiving their close and careful attention.

Thanks again for your letter on this very important matter.

Sincerely,

Nicholas E. Calio
Assistant to the President and
Director of Legislative Affairs

The Honorable Harry Reid
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510
June 12, 2001

Dear John:

Thank you for your recent letter opposing the increase of nuclear power because it might increase the possibility of Yucca Mountain becoming a nuclear waste repository. The President certainly appreciates your concern and suggestions.

I have shared your letter with the President's energy policy advisors and the Energy Task Force who are formulating policy recommendations in this area. Your comments are receiving their close and careful attention.

Thanks again for your letter on this very important matter.

Sincerely,

Nicholas E. Cañio
Assistant to the President and
Director of Legislative Affairs

The Honorable John Ensign
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510
June 12, 2001

Dear Representative Berkley:

Thank you for your recent letter opposing the increase of nuclear power because it might increase the possibility of Yucca Mountain becoming a nuclear waste repository. The President certainly appreciates your concern and suggestions.

I have shared your letter with the President's energy policy advisors and the Energy Task Force who are formulating policy recommendations in this area. Your comments are receiving their close and careful attention.

Thanks again for your letter on this very important matter.

Sincerely,

Nicholas E. Calio
Assistant to the President and
Director of Legislative Affairs

The Honorable Shelley Berkley
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
June 12, 2001

Dear Representative Gibbons:

Thank you for your recent letter opposing the increase of nuclear power because it might increase the possibility of Yucca Mountain becoming a nuclear waste repository. The President certainly appreciates your concern and suggestions.

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Thanks again for your letter on this very important matter.

Sincerely,

Nicholas E. Calio
Assistant to the President and
Director of Legislative Affairs

The Honorable Jim Gibbons
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2803  

May 23, 2001  

President George W. Bush  The White House  1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  Washington, DC 20500  

Dear Mr. President:  

We are writing in regard to the recently released report by the National Energy Policy Development Group, "National Energy Policy". As you know, this report encourages an increase in the use of nuclear power. Despite tremendous effort, however, our nation still has not developed a sound science and policy program to deal with the existing waste. Although the report recommends using the "best science to provide a deep geologic repository for nuclear waste," no nation, including the United States, has found a suitable geologic repository to safely isolate the waste.  

As you know, we are deeply concerned about this issue, because the only site being considered for a proposed repository is at Yucca Mountain, Nevada. This site would be located approximately 90 miles from Las Vegas, the largest city in Nevada and one of the fastest growing cities in the United States. In addition to being home to more than 1.3 million Nevadans, Las Vegas and its neighboring communities draw more than 30 million visitors each year. Nevada communities rely on the water resources below Yucca Mountain for drinking water, livestock production, and other agriculture activities. Radiation contamination of this groundwater or the surrounding environment would create an unacceptable human health risk and would threaten the tourism and recreation-based economy, which provides jobs and important tax revenue to Nevada and its communities.  

We are concerned that the report's recommendation for more nuclear power production will lead to additional pressure to move forward on Yucca Mountain, despite the known scientific and public policy shortcomings. Because of these concerns, we cannot support:  

1. the relicensing of existing nuclear power plants or the licensing of new nuclear power plants; or  
2. the reauthorization of the Price-Anderson Act, a controversial Department of Energy and nuclear power industry liability program.  

The continued prosperity of our nation depends upon an evolution in the way our nation produces and uses energy. We cannot support, however, any initiatives that increase the possibility that Yucca Mountain will become the repository for the nation's nuclear waste. We
We are willing to work with you to address these problems and make this energy report a document that all Americans can support.

We appreciate your consideration of our concerns and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

HARRY REID
U.S. Senator

JOHN ENSIGN
U.S. Senator

SHELLEY BERKLEY
Member of Congress

JIM GIBBONS
Member of Congress
Forgot to cc you on my latest e-exchange with Charlie.

-----Original Message-----
From: Anderson, Margot
Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2001 10:17 AM
To: 'Charles M. Smith@ovp.eop.gov\internet'
Cc: 'Andrew D. Lundquist@ovp.eop.gov\internet';
    'Karen Y. Knutson@ovp.eop.gov\internet';
    'John Fenzel@ovp.eop.gov\internet'
Subject: RE: status

Margot,

Margot

-----Original Message-----
From: Charles M. Smith@ovp.eop.gov\internet
Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2001 9:32 AM
To: Anderson, Margot
Cc: Andrew D. Lundquist@ovp.eop.gov\internet;
    Karen Y. Knutson@ovp.eop.gov\internet; John Fenzel@ovp.eop.gov\internet
Subject: status

Margot:

Thanks

Charlie
Joe,

Margot
THE WHITE-HOUSE OFFICE
REFERRAL

July 02, 2001

TO: DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

ACTION REQUESTED: INFO COPY ONLY/NO ACTION NECESSARY

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 488638
MEDIA: LETTER, DATED JUN 08, 2001
TO: PRESIDENT BUSH
FROM: THE HONORABLE MAX BAUCUS
UNITED STATES SENATE
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

SUBJECT: REQUESTS THE PRESIDENT TO DENY CALIFORNIA'S WAIVER REQUEST

PROMPT ACTION IS ESSENTIAL — IF REQUIRED ACTION HAS NOT BEEN TAKEN WITHIN 9 WORKING DAYS OF RECEIPT, PLEASE TELEPHONE THE UNDERSIGNED AT 456-2590.

RETURN CORRESPONDENCE, WORKSHEET AND COPY OF RESPONSE (OR DRAFT) TO:
RECORDS MANAGEMENT, ROOM 72, THE WHITE HOUSE, 20500

OFFICE OF RECORDS MANAGEMENT - THE WHITE HOUSE

11043

DOE016-0795
THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

DATE RECEIVED: 05/13/2001 2001-018401 8/6 A 10:07
NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE MAX BAUCUS

SUBJECT: REQUESTS THE PRESIDENT TO DENY CALIFORNIA'S WAIVER REQUEST

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<th>ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY</th>
<th>(STAFF NAME)</th>
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<td>LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS</td>
<td>NICK CALIO</td>
<td>ORG</td>
<td>2001/06/13</td>
<td>NC</td>
<td>01/06/25</td>
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<td>01/06/25</td>
<td>01/06/25</td>
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<td></td>
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</table>

COMMENTS

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: 0
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INDIVIDUAL CODES: USER CODE:

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C - COMPLETED
S - SUSPENDED

OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:
TYPE RESP + INTIALS OF SIGNER
CODE + DATE OF OUTGOING

REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO RECORDS MANAGEMENT (ROOM 73, OEOB) EXT-42588
KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS MANAGEMENT.

11044
DOE016-0796
June 25, 2001

Dear Max:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding California's waiver request from the 2% federal oxygenated fuel requirement. The President certainly appreciates your concern and suggestions.

I have shared your letter with the President's energy policy advisors and the Energy Task Force who are formulating policy recommendations in this area. Your comments are receiving their close and careful attention.

Thanks again for your letter on this very important matter.

Sincerely,

Nicholas E. Calio
Assistant to the President and
Director of Legislative Affairs

The Honorable Max Baucus
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

010626

11045

DOE016-0797

Obtained and made public by the Natural Resources Defense Council, March/April 2002
United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2002

June 8, 2001

The Honorable George W. Bush
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to reiterate that I do not support California’s waiver request from the 2% federal oxygenated fuel requirement.

In my opinion, California fails to meet the Clean Air Act’s statutory requirements for such a waiver. As you know, the waiver can only be granted if the Administration finds that Ethanol “prevents or interferes with the attainment” of air pollution standards. I am certain that this conclusion could not be factually supported.

Ethanol – an oxygenate alternative to MTBE – reduces carbon monoxide levels better than any other reformulated gasoline. And unlike petroleum-based MTBE, Ethanol is a renewable energy source. The Renewable Fuels Association (RFA) position on the issue is clear, and they are quick to recognize the benefits of Ethanol: “The U.S. Ethanol industry will absolutely meet California’s oxygenate demand, providing clean air, clean water and clean fuels without increasing consumer gasoline prices.” In addition, the bio-fuel Ethanol creates an important agriculture market for our nation’s farmers.

It is important to maintain a balance between our energy use and our environmental obligations; but these do not necessarily have to be conflicting ends. We must improve our energy technologies and develop energy resources that lead to greater economic stability, increased international competitiveness and a healthier environment. Ethanol can deliver all of these benefits, as well as many others.

I hope that you will deny California’s waiver request. If you have any questions on this issue, please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to your response.

With best personal regards, I am

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Max Baucus

MSB/ber

11046

DOE015-0798
Vice President Richard B. Cheney
The White House
Washington, DC 20501

Dear Mr. Vice President:

We are writing to express our strong support for increasing the amount of funding that the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) may borrow from the U.S. Treasury.

As investor-owned utilities, consumer-owned utilities, industrial customers, and independent power producers, all doing business in the Pacific Northwest, we often disagree on matters relating to the Northwest power system. But we are absolutely united on at least one point: that substantially increasing the reliability and capacity of the BPA transmission system is essential to the economic health of both the Northwest and the entire West.

The BPA transmission system is already heavily constrained as it attempts to serve existing loads and generation facilities, and the problem is only going to get worse unless dramatic steps are taken. As the report of your Energy Task Force made clear, new generation facilities are essential to solving the electricity crisis. Right now, the call for new generation is being answered -- developers have announced plans to build many new plants in the Northwest. This new generation will benefit consumers in all 11 Western states served by the regional transmission system known as the western interconnection.

But those new generation facilities cannot help solve the supply problem unless they are interconnected to a reliable regional transmission system. Because BPA owns and operates over 75 percent of the high-voltage transmission system in the Northwest, and no major investments have been made in that system for over a decade, the transmission system that would bring these new supplies to consumers is simply not prepared to do the job. Unless relieved through substantial infrastructure improvements, the constraints that plague the BPA transmission system will prolong the current electricity crisis and contribute to future crises.

We understand that solving this problem will not be free. All BPA transmission customers will bear the total costs of BPA’s transmission investments through transmission rates. In turn, the revenues from transmission rates will be used by BPA to repay all the money borrowed from the Treasury, with interest. But we cannot move forward toward a solution until the federal government does its part by increasing BPA’s borrowing authority.
One recent development gives us, and hopefully you, extra confidence that this new borrowing authority will be well spent. To assure that BPA properly prioritizes its transmission investments, a technical review committee consisting of BPA’s transmission customers was recently created, and is already beginning its work. This review process (which received the full support of the Senate Appropriations Committee in its July 13 report on the Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill) will allow meaningful customer input and thereby help assure that BPA’s transmission investments will provide the most cost-effective, reliable service for the region’s consumers.

In conclusion, we ask that you put the Administration on record as supporting an increase in BPA’s borrowing authority for FY 2002, so that BPA can immediately move ahead on critical, multi-year investments in the transmission system. We also ask that you promptly transmit a statement of your views to the Senate and House Appropriations Committees. With the Administration’s support, we are hopeful that this matter will be successfully concluded when those Committees meet in conference on the Energy and Water Appropriations bill after the August recess.

Kris Mikkelsen
General Manager
Inland Power & Light

Al Gonzalez
General Manager
Central Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Patrick Ashby
General Manager
Tillamook Public Utility District

James W Sanders
General Manager
Benton Public Utility District

David E. Piper
Chief Executive Officer
Pacific Northwest Generating Company

Don Godard
Manager
Grant Public Utility District

James C. Miller
Senior Vice President
Delivery
Idaho Power Company

Pamela G. Lesh
Vice President
Public Policy & Regulatory Affairs
Portland General Electric Company

Brett Wilcox
President
Goldendale Aluminum and Northwest Aluminum

11048
DOE016-0600
Jack Haffey  
President and Chief  
Operating Officer  
The Montana Power  
Company

Gary Zarker  
Superintendent  
Seattle City Light

Alan Richardson  
Chairman of the Board  
Pacificorp

Jerry Leone  
Manager  
Public Power Council

Steve Johnson  
Executive Director  
Washington PUD  
Association

Paul T. Champagne  
President  
PPL Global

Mark Gendron  
Manager  
Idaho Falls Power

Randy L. Berggren  
General Manager  
Eugene Water & Electric  
Board

cc:  Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham  
Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Robert C. Byrd  
House Appropriations Committee Chairman C.W. Young  
Senate Budget Committee Chairman Kent Conrad  
House Budget Committee Chairman Jim Nussle  
Senate Energy Committee Chairman Jeff Bingaman  
House Energy and Commerce Chairman W.J. "Billy" Tauzin  
OMB Director Mitchell E. Daniels Jr.  
NW members of Congress  
Governor Dirk Kempthorne  
Governor John Kitzhaber  
Governor Gary Lock  
Governor Judy Martz

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